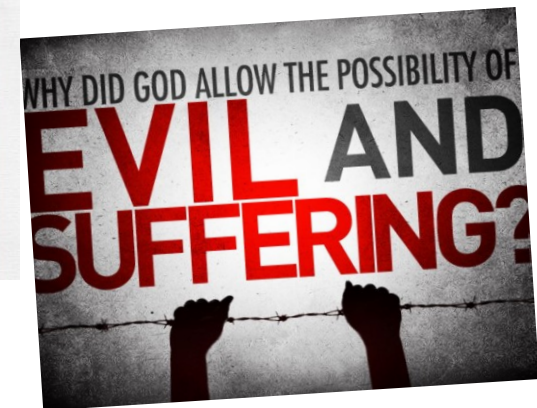




Welcome to Philosophy, Religion and Ethics A-level



"WE ARE WHAT WE
REPEATEDLY DO.
EXCELLENCE, THEN, IS NOT
AN ACT, BUT A HABIT."
- ARISTOTLE



Is it ever right to
go to war?



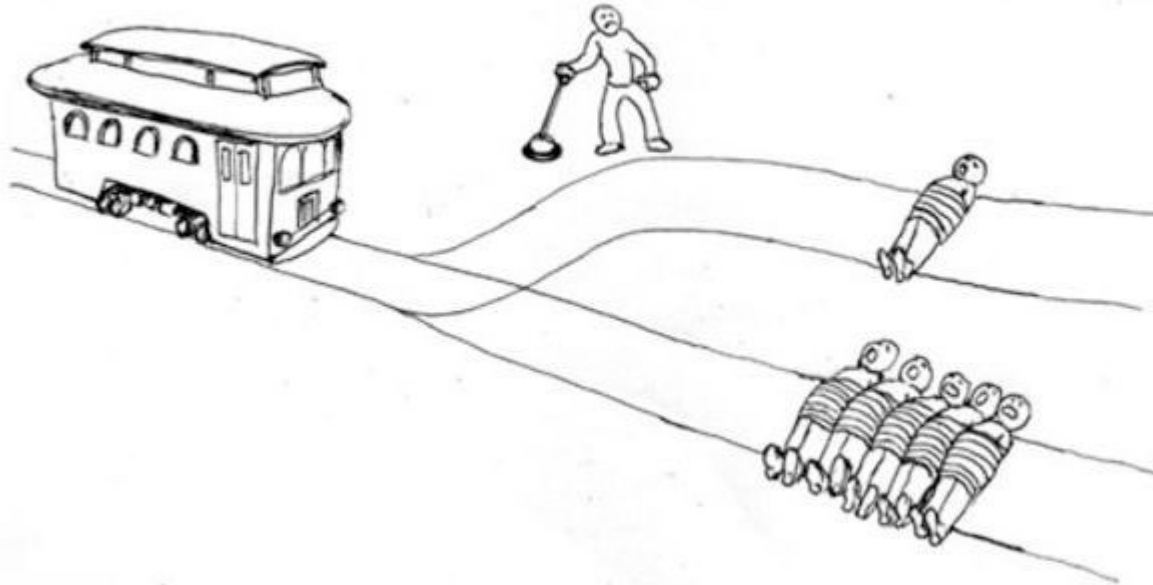
Head of Department welcome

Welcome! On behalf of the department, thank you for showing an interest in the Philosophy, Religion and Ethics A level. If you have any further questions at all, please contact me on: A.Mehta@Nishkamhighschools.org and I will be happy to help!

The following presentation will cover:

- The purposes and aims of Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- What you can expect to learn in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- Extra-curricular opportunities in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics
- Future Opportunities / where Philosophy, Religion and Ethics can take you
- Qualification details
- How to prepare for this A level

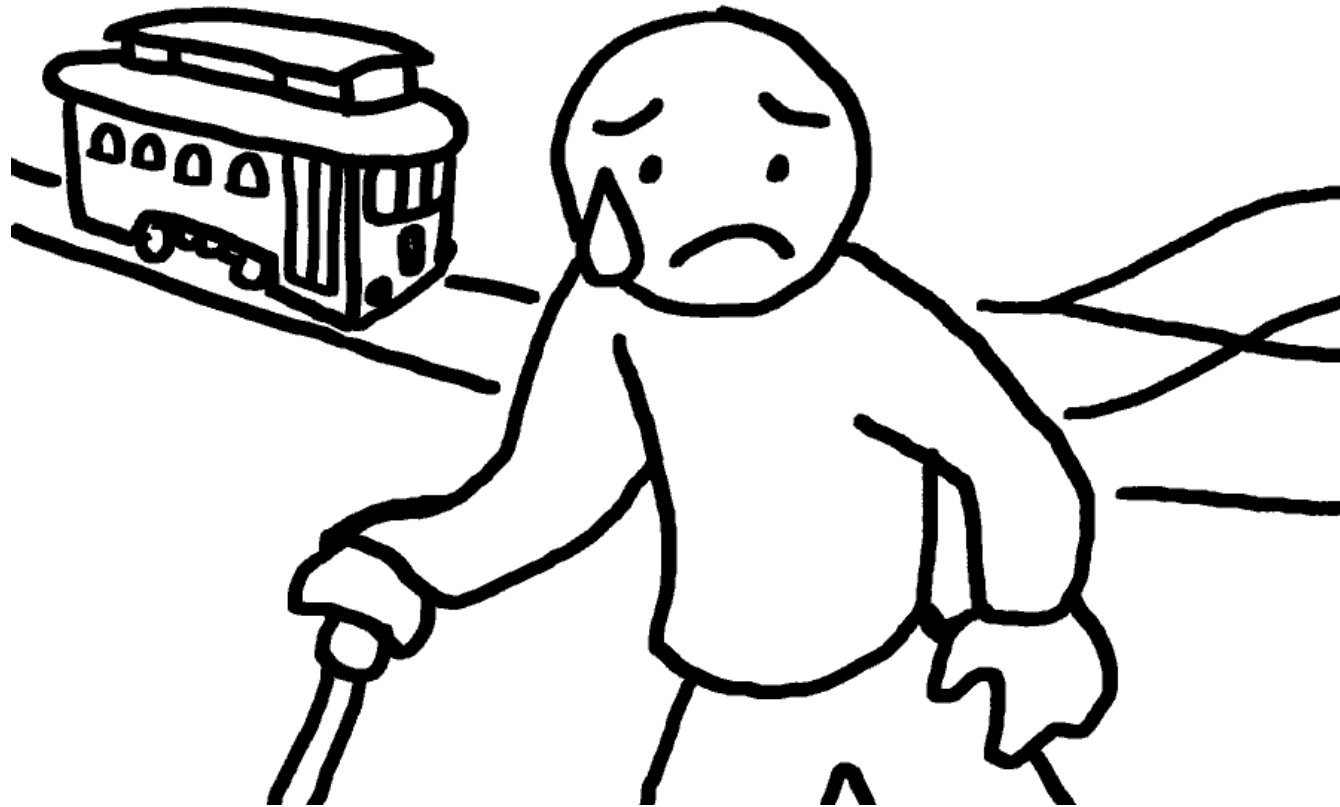
What would you do?



The Trolley Problem is a famous thought experiment which asks us if we would intervene in the situation to stop the trolley hitting five people.

The dilemma is if we do this the trolley will still hit one person and we could be held responsible for it.

What would you do?



Most of us will end up feeling like this! Unsure of what to do.

More than Academic Excellence | More than a School | More than 'Self'

What would you do?



Our decision may change if the one person that will be killed is a doctor, a child or a criminal. We may think this does not matter as it is only a thought experiment. However, these are the type of decisions many of us may have to make in our lifetime.....

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What would you do?



Discussions are currently being had about how self driving cars should act when issues arise. Should the car save the most people? The youngest people? The human over the animal?

What would you do?

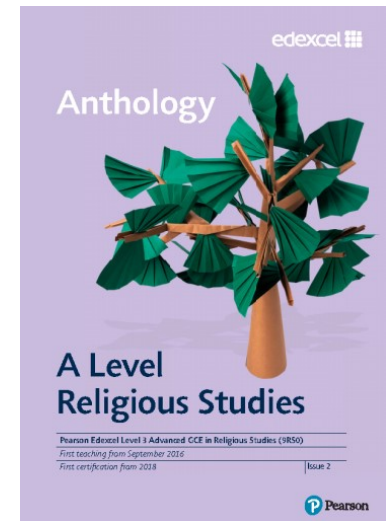


During the pandemic doctors and nurses had to make very real decisions about who to give oxygen to. The old? The young? This issue continued in the early stages of the vaccine roll out.



Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

- This A level helps you to think **critically** about the world we all share...
- It allows you to explore the nature of **human life** and morality as a whole...
- It allows you to develop your own **values, beliefs and identity**...
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics helps to develop **transferrable skills** that are useful in a wide range of other subjects/jobs roles.
- It helps you to develop **advanced literacy skills** through the reading of complex extracts and scripture and regular essay writing.
- It is **REALLY engaging!** A subject that invites discussion and debate every lesson!





What you can expect in your Philosophy, Religion and Ethics lessons?

- Engaging lessons which focus on **discussion and debate** on a wide range of ethical, philosophical and theological topics...
- **Challenging lessons** which draw on a wide range of complex academic sources.
- **Independent learning**, as well as working as part of a team with your fellow classmates to research different topic areas.
- Lessons which explore philosophical and ethical concepts and encourage you to **voice your own beliefs**, as well as listen to the views of others.
- Development of **literacy skills** with frequent essay writing practice – a focus on what makes an ‘excellent’ essay in RS.

What you will study in Religious Studies?



In this A level you will Study Three Papers as part of the **Edexcel course:**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/religious-studies-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>

1. The Philosophy Paper (Paper 1)
 2. The Religion and Ethics Paper (Paper 2)
 3. The Sikh Paper (Paper 4f)
- You be taught 50% of the A level content in year 12 and the remaining 50% of the paper in Y13.



The Philosophy Paper

What happens after
you die?

Can God exist in a
world full of
suffering?

How do we know
God exists?

Did man create the
idea of God? Or did
God create man?



The Ethics Paper

Can we have a 'just war' in the modern day?

What does a good decision look like?

Does an embryo have a right to life before it is born?

Can faith help us live a good life?



The Sikh Paper

Should Sikhs living in the UK be allowed to marry whoever they want, regardless of faith, race or social background?

Should Gurdwaras in the UK use the English language in religious devotion more often?

How have the roles of women changed over time?

What impact has living in the UK had on Sikh beliefs, values and practices?

Extra-curricular opportunities in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics



- We are always keen to involve students in extra-curricular activities and trips related to Religious Studies and Faith in the school.
- In 2019 a small group of sixth form students took part in a trip to Rome. This is something we plan to run in the next academic year.
- The Department organises visits to lectures to watch key speakers such as Peter Singer (Philosopher).




Where can Philosophy, Religion and Ethics take you?



MY FUTURE . MY CAREER . MY RE .

“Studying RE helps me understand how religious beliefs affect different countries”

Ollie - Sports reporter




Real stories of how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals.

casestudies.reonline.org.uk

MY FUTURE . MY CAREER . MY RE .

“RE helped me learn to question things. It makes you think about what's right for you and it helps give you a voice”

Lilie - Recipe Developer & Chef



Real stories of how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals.

casestudies.reonline.org.uk

Where can Philosophy, Religion and Ethics take you?



MY FUTURE . MY CAREER . MY RE .

“RE provides an excellent platform for debate, which is a key skill that has helped me study law”

Sena - Law Student



Real stories of how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals.

casestudies.reonline.org.uk

MY FUTURE . MY CAREER . MY RE .

“Studying RE gave me a good understanding of different religions and cultures, making me a better firefighter”

Mo - Firefighter



Real stories of how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals.

casestudies.reonline.org.uk

Where can Philosophy, Religion and Ethics take you?



MY FUTURE . MY CAREER . MY RE .

“Understanding people’s faiths and lifestyles is so important for my job as a junior doctor”

Arun - Junior Doctor



Real stories of how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals.

casestudies.reonline.org.uk

MY FUTURE . MY CAREER . MY RE .

“Through Religious Studies, I learned to build and interrogate arguments and how to question and evaluate narratives”

Shermeen - PPE Student



Real stories of how Religious Studies benefits students and young professionals.

casestudies.reonline.org.uk

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Where can Philosophy, Religion and Ethics take you?



- This is a **valuable qualification because it demonstrates to universities and employers that you can understand diverse viewpoints and analyse complex subjects critically.**
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics helps to develop transferrable skills that are useful in a wide range of other subjects/jobs roles, such as: Law, Journalism, Education, Publishing/Editing, Charity/Community work,, Business and many more!
- It helps you to develop advanced literacy skills through the reading of complex extracts and scripture and regular essay writing which is useful in many sectors.
- Philosophy, Religion and Ethics **demonstrates to employers that you can work with all different types of people**, that you are confident in voicing your ideas and that you have strong communication skills.
- Many PRE students go on to further study at university including courses in Law, Education, History, Philosophy, Theology, Politics, Philosophy, Religion and Ethics and many more!



What we expect from you:

- **Resilience** – Some topics are very academically challenging and you must remain positive in your approach to your studies as well as ask for support if you need it. Never be afraid to ask for help!
- **Diligence** – Be proactive in researching and reading around your topics prior to the lessons and after the lessons to consolidate your learning.
- **Enthusiasm** – Come to lessons with a passion for the subject and be prepared to contribute verbally in class discussion – this is an essential part of the subject.
- **Determination** – You must be hardworking and disciplined... You will be regularly set independent tasks, including essays at least once a week. It is important you are organised and take responsibility for your learning so you are able to meet deadlines.



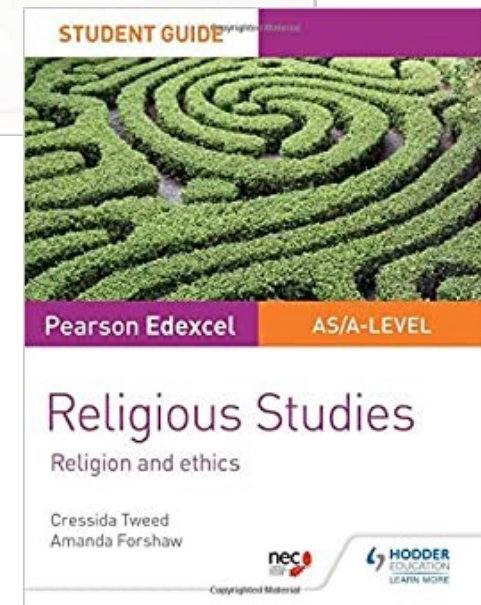
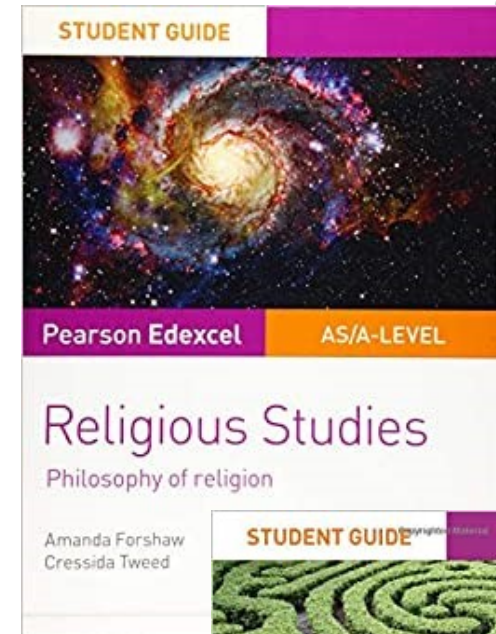
Qualification details

- This A level is examined through **three 2-hour exams** for each paper at the end of Year 13.
- **Each paper (exam) counts for 33.33% of your overall qualification (a third).**
- You will have one 2-hour written exam for each paper in the summer, worth 80 marks each.
- There are three parts in each exam: **Section A, B and C** - All sections require you to write an essay or an essay style response to questions.
- **There is no coursework in this A level and no external exams in year 12,** you are assessed through two mock examinations in AS and regular practice essays.

Preparing for Philosophy, Religion and Ethics:



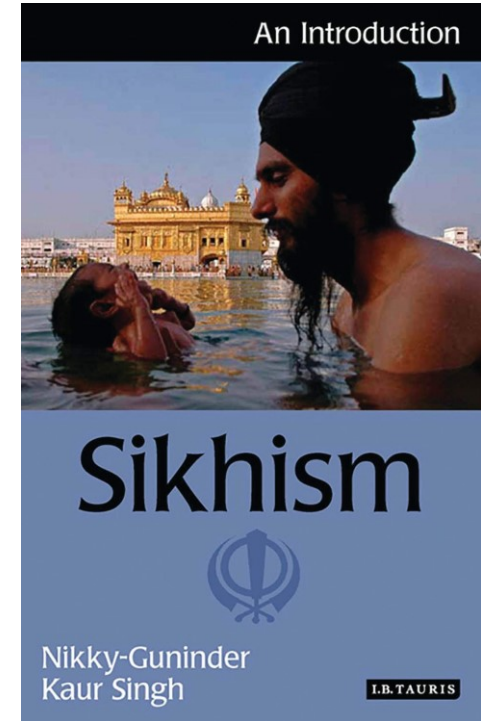
- It is important to prepare for your studies...
- A great way to do this is by purchasing books related to each paper in the A level and reading around your topics prior to the course.
- The **Edexcel textbooks for Philosophy and Ethics** are very useful guides for students and cover all topics in the papers.
- There are also key **books for the Sikhism paper on the next slide...**



Preparing for Philosophy, Religion and Ethics:



- Useful books to help you prepare for the Sikh paper include:
- Nicky-Guninder Kaur-Singh, *Sikhism: An Introduction* (I.B. Tauris, 2011)
- Cole W O and Sambhi P S, *The Sikhs: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices* (Sussex Academic, 1998)
- Louis E. Fenech, *Martyrdom in the Sikh Tradition: Playing the 'Game of Love'* (OUP India, 2001)





All of the Nishkam Sixth Form Open Evening resources can be found on the school's website within the Sixth Form section.

Applications are also now open and are available to complete electronically through the 'Apply' section of our Sixth Form page.



**We look forward to welcoming
many of you to our classrooms in
September 2022**